



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Pires *et al.*

Appl. No.: 09/986,750

Filed: November 9, 2001

For: **Method for Removing a Universal
Linker from an Oligonucleotide**

Confirmation No.: 5957

Art Unit: 1635

Examiner: Schultz, James

Atty. Docket: 0942.5080001/RWE/CJW

Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(1)

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Mail Stop RCE

Sir:

It is hereby requested that the period for filing a further reply after filing Notice of Appeal on September 11, 2003, be extended five months from November 11, 2003 to April 11, 2004 by the filing of this Petition and fee payment.

The petition fee (37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)) is believed to be \$1,900.00 for a five month extension for a large entity (\$110.00 having already been paid for the first month's extension). Fee payment is provided in our accompanying PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form. However, if extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 other than those provided herewith are required to prevent abandonment of the present patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

04/09/2004 CNGUYEN 00000105 09986750

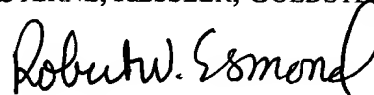
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The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert W. Esmond". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "R" and "E".

Robert W. Esmond
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 32,893

Date: April 8, 2004

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600